



U.S. FRIENDS OF SOVIET PEOPLE



BULLETIN

WINTER 2008

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WINTER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Sunday, March 16, 2008

Members: 1:00 – 2:00 PM

New Officers, Board Members, Chapters

(Since we have not requested membership dues in some time, please send in
your dues with the form on the back or bring them to the meeting)

Public Meeting: 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Video – Chronicles of October

(Footage of the October Revolution)

Update on 3rd Congress of the International Council for Friendship and
Solidarity with Soviet People

Panel Discussion – The October Revolution and the Fight Against US
Imperialism Today

**Solidarity Center 55 W. 17 St., 5th Floor
New York, NY**

On the 90th Anniversary of Great October

By Michael Lucas

Editor, Northstar Compass

Chair, International Council for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People

Ninety years ago, on November 7, 1917 (Oct. 24 by the old Julian calendar), the Bolshevik party overthrew the Duma and bourgeois government led by Kerensky. All power passed to the Soviets of workers, peasants and soldiers. By the next day the Decree and Peace and the Decree on Land had been passed. Soon followed the nationalization of banks, factories and church properties, the raising of wages, state control of foreign trade and the repudiation of foreign debt.

So auspiciously began the Great October Socialist Revolution that sounded the dawn of the era of socialist revolution and national liberation. It is fitting that with the start of the last decade of the century starting with Great October, we take this opportunity to celebrate the great victories ushered in by the Russian revolution, and remember with great bitterness the betrayals brought on by modern revisionism.

With the victory of the Russian revolution, for the first time in the history of humanity, the downtrodden masses of workers and peasants were able to liberate a whole country from the clutches of bourgeois and feudal exploiters and oppressors. One eighth of the world's landmass, around 177 million people were spared the agonies and horrors of feudalism and capitalism, free to build the society of their own choosing. Year after year industry and agriculture grew, real wages expanded, previously unreachable goods became commonplace, cultural enrichment, shortening of work time and increased enjoyment of work, and the growth of humane relations between individuals and nations! Needless to say, were the blessings of the Russian revolution left merely to the countries formerly in the Tsarist Russian empire, Great October already would have been one of the greatest events in human history.

But it was more! It was the Soviet Republic of workers and peasants that destroyed German fascism, that destroyed the reserves of the imperial Japanese army, and most importantly brought Marxism from the isolation of Europe to the populous East. Without the victorious Russian revolution, there would have been no victory over fascism! Without the victorious Russian revolution, there would have been no victorious Chinese revolution! Without the victorious Russian and

Chinese revolutions, there would have been no decolonization of the billions in oppressed nations. At the highpoint of the era of socialist revolution and national liberation begun by Great October, one third of the world had been liberated from capitalist and feudal exploitation and oppression, with most of the oppressed nations freed from direct colonial rule.

Who can forget those heady days! Worldwide liberation had actually become a real possibility! Free food and free housing had come within sight! Alas we have leaped back into barbarism.

What happened? We are now back to a single capitalist world market, of the oppression of nations, and peoples, of the horrors of starvation, degradation and war. What happened? How could so much have been so lost?

Betrayal and subversion I tell you! Modern revisionism, that wolf wrapped in sheep's clothing, confused, and demobilized the workers and peasants, and step-by-step rolled back all the gains of revolution. The break-up of collective farms, the transfer of means of production out of state control, the reintroduction of enterprise profits, the emasculation of the central plan, in sum, the expansion of capitalist relations, though camouflaged as socialist improvements, the bourgeois seizure of power from within the highest reaches of the worker's party and the reestablishment of capitalism.

The Soviet Union, the People's democracies, national liberation movements, worker's parties, all done in by modern revisionism. Proletarian internationalism replaced by bourgeois nationalism; trust in the masses replaced by bureaucratic methods of work; vigor with exhaustion; hope with demoralization. Revolutionary mass movements replaced by reformist sects. All because of modern revisionism.

On this ninetieth anniversary of Great October, let us remember the great victories ushered in by the Russian revolution; but let us most of all bitterly remember the great defeats brought on by modern revisionism. In these next ten years as the century brought on by Great October comes to a close, let us rectify our work and return to the revolutionary principles of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin. If we fail to begin a new century, let the proletariat reject us!

FOR REBIRTH OF USSR!

Credo of U.S. Friends of Soviet People

U.S. Friends of Soviet People is dedicated to supporting struggles to restore socialism in the Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. USFSP is the U.S. affiliate of the International Council for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People. The International Council carries on the traditions of the "Hands Off Russia Committees", that were established internationally in 1918 to help protect the young Soviet Republic from foreign intervention. The aim of all Friends of Soviet People is international co-operation in building socialism and solidarity with the anti-imperialist forces of the world who are struggling against U.S. imperialism – the main enemy of humanity.

USFSP acts as a unifying force to help consolidate and coordinate the anti-imperialist forces of the world with the ongoing movement to restore the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe as socialist states. We act as a united front, but are not a forum for ideological debates. The peoples of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe themselves will choose their paths towards socialism.

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In Memoriam

Lois Singer

June 1936 – September 2007



- Director, US Friends of Soviet People
- A dedicated member of the Communist Party, USA
- A continuous friend of the Soviet people and the world's first workers' state, the Soviet Union
- A lifelong supporter of Cuba's socialist revolution
- A beautiful human being

Aaron Moss

November 1909 – December 2007



- Member, US Friends of Soviet People
- A close friend of Workers World Party
- Aaron was a visitor to the Soviet Union, Poland and North Korea, as well as a frequent visitor to Cuba
- A psychologist and great human being

Luis Miranda

Havana, 1928 – New York City, Nov. 2007



- President, Casa de Las Américas
- Long-time supporter of the Cuban Revolution, for which he met physical attacks
- Luis often opened up the doors of Casa to the USFSP, including for the 1987 anniversary celebration of the October Revolution

Dear Comrades, Friends of Soviet People,

We send you greetings on this year of the 90th Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, as well as the 16th anniversary of the publication of Northstar Compass.

Many of you are loyal subscribers who have received Northstar Compass for years. Others are receiving this bulletin because either you are former subscribers who have let your subscription lapse, or you requested a free sample copy from the Northstar website.

Everyone who has seen even one issue of Northstar knows that there is no other publication in the English language that covers the struggles of the peoples of the former Soviet Union for the restoration of socialism, or the suffering that has been caused by the imposition of capitalism. Northstar also provides unique information and analysis of the progressive and revolutionary movements around the world.

Northstar Compass is now published in four languages – in English from Toronto, Canada; in French from Montreal, Quebec, Canada; in Russian from Moscow; and in Spanish from Santiago, Chile. It is read in 78 countries around the world.

Northstar Compass was begun in 1992, in the dark days of the temporary demise of the Soviet Union at the start of the reactionary Yeltsin regime. It was a guiding light at a time when the bourgeoisie of the whole world claimed that socialism was dead and capitalism was eternal, and that the end of the Cold War would mean a new era of peace and prosperity. The phony Marxists and revisionists also claimed that the new conditions meant that there would have to be a new socialism of the 21st century, without the overthrow of capitalism and without the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Now it is clear that all that imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism, could bring is an era of unending wars of aggression abroad, inter-imperialist competition, and attacks on the democratic rights and living standards of the working people at home.

This has led to a new rise in the mass movement within the U.S. Huge numbers have come out in the streets in demonstrations against Bush's barbarous wars of aggression in Iraq and Afghanistan. These wars have not been able to succeed due to the heroic resistance of the peoples of those countries. Millions of immigrant left their jobs and schools on May Day, 2006, in towns and cities around the U.S. in protest against attempts to criminalize undocumented workers. The Afro-American movement has taken up the fight against government neglect, destruction of housing and land grabs in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and in defense of the Jena 6. And there have been some modest protest in the multinational U.S. working class against increased exploitation and the continuing sell-out by the top trade union bureaucracy.

Most of those involved in these new progressive movements know little about socialism, and less about the history and struggles of the people of the Soviet Union. We need to bring our understanding of this history to those new, often young, people involved in the struggles of today (as well as to see that these struggles are reflected in the pages of Northstar Compass).

We encourage all of you who are not currently subscribers to send in \$25 for a one year subscription to Northstar Compass – you may also request a sub in French, Russian or Spanish. Those of you who are already subscribers, please consider getting a gift subscription or encouraging others to subscribe. Help to bring the lessons of the October Revolution and of the struggles of the Soviet people to the new progressive movement.

Finally, in the interest of Stakhanovite socialist competition, we encourage people in the U.S. and in Canada to engage in a contest to see which country can bring in more new subscriptions in the year 2008.

For a new year of struggles and victories in the fight for a socialist world of genuine peace, democracy and freedom!

Michael Lucas
Editor, Northstar Compass
Chair, International Council for Friendship
and Solidarity with Soviet People

George Gruenthal
Secretary
U.S. Friends of Soviet People